



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 164

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 501

Senate, March 26, 2002

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO of the 31st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Accredited continuing professional education" means any
4 education of an electrician or plumber that is designed to maintain
5 professional competence in the pursuit, practice and standards of
6 electrical work or plumbing and piping work and that is approved by
7 the commissioner and is provided by an organization, institution or
8 agency that is approved by the commissioner;

9 (2) "Certificate of continuing education" means a document issued
10 to an electrician or plumber by an organization, institution or agency
11 approved by the commissioner that offers accredited continuing
12 professional education, which (A) certifies that an electrician or

13 plumber has satisfactorily completed a specified number of continuing
14 education hours, and (B) bears the name of such organization,
15 institution or agency, the title of the program, the dates during which
16 the program was conducted, the number of continuing education
17 hours satisfactorily completed and the signature of the director of such
18 organization, institution or agency or the signature of the director's
19 authorized agent;

20 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
21 Protection.

22 (b) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
23 Electrical Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section
24 20-331 of the general statutes, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
25 with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to (1) establish requirements for
26 accredited continuing professional education for electricians licensed
27 pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, of the general statutes;
28 (2) establish qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional
29 education programs and establish qualifying criteria for acceptable
30 certificates of continuing education; and (3) provide for the waiver of
31 required accredited continuing professional education for electricians
32 for good cause.

33 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
34 Plumbing and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection
35 (d) of section 20-331 of the general statutes, shall adopt regulations, in
36 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to (1) establish
37 requirements for accredited continuing professional education for
38 plumbers licensed pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, of
39 the general statutes; (2) establish qualifying criteria for accredited
40 continuing professional education programs and establish qualifying
41 criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing education; and (3)
42 provide for the waiver of required accredited continuing professional
43 education for plumbers for good cause.

44 Sec. 2. Section 20-335 of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003*):

46 Any person who has successfully completed an examination for
 47 [his] such person's initial license under this chapter shall pay to the
 48 Department of Consumer Protection a fee of seventy-five dollars for a
 49 contractor's license or a fee of sixty dollars for any other such license.
 50 All such licenses shall expire annually. No person shall carry on or
 51 engage in the work or occupations subject to this chapter after the
 52 expiration of [his] such person's license until such person has filed an
 53 application bearing the date of [his] such person's registration card
 54 with the appropriate board. Such application shall be in writing,
 55 addressed to the secretary of the board from which such renewal is
 56 sought and signed by the person applying for such renewal. The board
 57 may renew such license if the application for such renewal is received
 58 by the board no later than one month after the date of expiration of
 59 such license, upon payment to the department of a renewal fee of
 60 seventy-five dollars in the case of a contractor and of sixty dollars for
 61 any other such license. As a condition of renewal, the licensee shall
 62 furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the licensee has
 63 completed any continuing professional education required under
 64 sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, and section 1 of this act, or any
 65 regulations adopted thereunder. The department shall issue a receipt
 66 stating the fact of such payment, which receipt shall be a license to
 67 engage in such work or occupation. A licensee who has failed to renew
 68 [his] such licensee's license for a period of over one year from the date
 69 of expiration of such license shall have it reinstated only upon
 70 complying with the requirements of section 20-333. All license fees and
 71 renewal fees paid to the department pursuant to this section shall be
 72 deposited in the General Fund.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2003</i>

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Consumer Protection, Dept.	-	19,010	36,620

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to promulgate regulations establishing requirements for accredited continuing professional education for electricians and plumbers.

There are 14,663 active electricians and 8,190 active plumbers currently registered with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Licenses are renewed annually for \$75 for a contractor's license and \$60 for other such licenses. Since the DCP would be required to review all renewal applications to ensure proper continuing professional education evidence provided by the licensees, the department will need to hire one (1) Processing Technician at an annual salary of \$23,655 in FY 03.

Since the bill is effective January 1, 2003, only half-year costs are reflected in FY 03; those costs are annualized for FY 04. The table below provides the breakdown of such costs. Please note that a small inflationary increase has been added to the FY 04 expenditures. Other Expenses includes office and data processing supplies and software, and annual phone service. Equipment costs such as one personal computer, a desk, a chair and a file cabinet are only one-time expenditures.

Account	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services	\$11,828	\$24,720
Fringe Benefits ¹	3,557	10,100
Other Expenses	875	1,800
Equipment	2,750	- 0 -
Total	\$19,010	\$36,620

The regulations can be promulgated by existing staff within their normal duties and responsibilities without the need for additional resources.

¹ Fringe benefit costs are not included in the agency's operating budget. Instead, they are part of funds appropriated for this purpose under Miscellaneous Appropriations Administered by the Comptroller.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 501

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICIANS AND
PLUMBERS****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the consumer protection commissioner to adopt regulations to (1) establish requirements for accredited continuing professional education for electricians and plumbers, (2) establish qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional education programs, (3) establish qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing education, and (4) provide for the waiver of continuing education requirements for good cause. The commissioner must work with the advice and assistance of the licensing boards for electrical work and plumbing work concerning their respective trades when adopting the regulations. The bill requires electricians and plumbers to prove that they have met any continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. Licenses must be renewed annually.

The bill defines “accredited continuing professional education” as an education of an electrician or plumber that is (1) designed to maintain professional competence in the pursuit, practice, and standards of their trade; and (2) approved by the commissioner; and (3) provided by an organization, institution, or agency approved by the commissioner.

It defines “certificate of continuing education” as a document issued to an electrician or plumber by an approved accredited continuing education organization, institution, or agency that (1) certifies that the tradesman satisfactorily completed a specified number of continuing education hours and (2) bears the name of the organization, the title of the program, the dates the program was conducted, the number of satisfactorily completed hours of continuing education, and the signature of the organization’s director or his authorized agent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2003

BACKGROUND

Occupational Licensing System

State law establishes a licensing system for several trades overseen by different licensing boards, including the Examining Board for Electrical Work and the Examining Board for Plumbing and Piping Work. They have the power to determine who qualifies for a license and to enforce standards by disciplining licensees. Boards may create limited licenses authorizing their holders to work in a specific area of a trade. Each trade has different levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level. The boards establish less extensive requirements for workers attempting to qualify for a limited license. DCP's duties to the boards include receiving complaints, carrying out investigations, and performing administrative tasks, such as physically issuing licenses and renewals.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0